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NEW LIBRARY OPENS AT UM
BUT 200 BOOKS DAMAGED BY WATER

MISSOULA--

Although the new library at the University of Montana opened officially Monday morning, about 200 books stored in the basement of the new structure's annex were found damaged by water, UM Library Dean Earle C. Thompson has announced.

Thompson said the damage evidently was caused when water from "a plumbing accident" seeped onto the floor of the annex basement. Water depth was a maximum of about two inches, he said.

He said it would be a week or more before the extent of the damages can be estimated.

The book damage is the latest in a series of problems which have plagued the opening of the new \$3.465-million facility. Official opening of the new library was delayed for several months in the fall when shelving material failed to arrive on time. Then the opening was extended from Jan. 3 until Monday (Jan. 7) because of moving problems in general and the necessity of arranging and re-arranging furniture and other materials in the new library.

Thompson said some reference and bibliography material still has to be shelved and more chairs are needed in the new library.

"Library users also will have to put up with makeshift signs and limited, piecemeal telephone service for awhile," Thompson said.

Commenting on the problems faced in opening the new library, Thompson said: "If anything else can happen to this project, it will."

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